



# cityNEWS



## GOLDEN VALLEY NEIGHBORHOODS

Home improvement helps keep them  
beautiful and in-demand.

**SEE PAGES 8-9 & 16**

Photo by Richard Nyberg,  
Views of the Valley 2008

## FIREFIGHTER RECRUITMENT

City needs daytime responders.

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## Schmidgall Appointed To Council

### Term Ends Nov 2013 For Seat Vacated By Freiberg

At the Jan 2 City Council meeting, long-time Planning Commissioner Steven Schmidgall was officially sworn in to the seat vacated when Mike Freiberg resigned Dec. 18.

Freiberg was elected in November as State Representative for District 45B.

Although Freiberg's City Council term ends Dec 31, 2015, Schmidgall will only serve until results are canvassed for the November 2013 election. According to Minnesota Statute 412.02, while the City Council must appoint a replacement until an election is held, a special election must be held to replace or affirm the appointed person if more than two years remain in the unexpired term. That special election can be held at the same time as the City's next regular election, which in Golden Valley's case is Nov 5, 2013. The person elected at that time would serve a two-year term until the City's next election in 2015.

Schmidgall has been involved in Golden Valley City government since 2005, when he was first appointed to the City's Planning Commission. He is also active in Robbinsdale School District 281, where has been chair of the Financial Advisory Council since 2010. Previously, Schmidgall served six years as treasurer of the PTSO at Sandburg Middle School and as PTSA president and treasurer for Neill Elementary School. He also participated in District 281's Elementary



*Steve Schmidgall (second from right) joins (L to R) Paula Pentel, DeDe Scanlon, Mayor Shep Harris, and Joanie Clausen on the Golden Valley City Council.*

Boundaries Task Force and Capital Budget Task Force, and he spent two years as league director for Golden Valley Girls' Softball.

Schmidgall is project manager in facilities planning and construction for Regions Hospital in St Paul. He has a bachelor's degree in environmental design (architecture) from Macalester College, a MBA from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management, and is completing a University of Minnesota post-baccalaureate certificate in health care innovation and design.

"I have found service on the Planning Commission to be very gratifying," wrote Schmidgall in his application. "I want to ensure thoughtful, practical progress in the City of Golden Valley, both in planning and in other areas of City government."

The City Council selected Schmidgall on the basis of his written application and interview. Other finalists included Larry Fonneist, John Kluchka, Brad Kadue, and Rich Baker. ~

## State Of The City Is March 19

The Golden Valley City Council will present its 2012 State of the City Community Update Tuesday, March 19, at 6:30 pm and Friday, March 22, at 7:30 am in the City Hall Council Chambers. All members of the community are invited to attend.

Replays can be viewed on GV 16, the City's government access cable channel, and on the City website.

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year.

This year's report will explore the connections between City services, community involvement, and quality of life.

For more information, contact Communications Manager Cheryl Weiler at 763-593-8004. ~

# Come *Run The Valley* April 13

## 19th Annual Event Benefits Human Service Needs In GV

*Run the Valley*, one of Golden Valley's most popular events, will mark its 19th anniversary this year. Sponsored by the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, the 10k race and 5k run and walk raises funds for organizations that benefit the community (see box below). In 2012, the event drew 642 participants and raised more than \$21,900.

### How To Register

- Online at [www.zapevent.com](http://www.zapevent.com) and [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) (additional fees apply)
- Download form from City website and submit by mail with payment to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426 or by fax (763-512-2344)
- By phone (763-512-2345) with VISA/MasterCard
- In person at Brookview Community Center
- On race day, from 7-7:45 am at Brookview Community Center

Entry fee is \$25 before Feb 28, \$30 March 1-April 5 (by 3 pm), and \$40 on race day. Includes T-shirt, race number, and chip timing. Children 12 and under may register for \$15 when accompanied by an adult entry (youth fee includes T-shirt and race number only). To be eligible for a medal, chip timing must be used. T-shirt sizes guaranteed if registered by March 1. All proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

Last year's corporate sponsors were Liberty Carton Company, Lupi-ent Enterprises, and Solbrekk Business Technology Solutions. Other sponsors included Al's Coffee, Chiquita Banana, Channel 12/NWCT, City of Golden Valley, Einstein Bros Bagels, Go Health Chiropractic, Finken Great Glacier Water, flash! photography, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

For more information, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/) or call Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 🐾



*Jessi Brummer won the 2013 logo design contest.*

### 2013 Run The Valley Saturday, April 13

- 8 am for 10K race
- 8:10 am for 5K race
- 8:15 am for the 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed)

Start and finish at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway S. Certified course runs through residential Golden Valley. Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks donated by area businesses.

## GVHSF Serves The Community

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents, providing a total of \$1,293,520 in funding.

Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews requests and allocates funds raised by the GVHSF through various annual fundraisers such as April's Run the Valley and July's Golden Valley Golf Classic.

For 2013, the GVHSF allocated \$42,500 to eight local human service organizations: Canvas Health/Crisis Connection (\$2,000), Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery (\$5,000),

Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$7,000), PRISM (\$10,000), Senior Community Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$3,500), Tree House (\$5,000), and YMCA-New Hope Branch (\$5,000).

For more information about GVHSF activities, events, and funding criteria, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php) or call 763-512-2345. 🐾



# Remodeling? Think **GREEN**



If you're planning a remodeling project this year, consider the opportunity to think "green." Using environmentally sound techniques in your remodel and properly disposing of construction waste can make your home a healthier place to live and save you money in the long run. And it's not as hard as it sounds.

## Building Phase

One way to remodel green is using recycled or salvaged materials, but it can take longer to find what you need. Plan ahead and give yourself time to track down materials that can be reused. Speed up the process by getting creative with your project. Got some leftover floorboards lying around your garage? Turn them into bookshelves. Use your imagination.

Also, less construction means less waste, so figure out ways to build around and within existing structures, rather than tearing them down or building entirely new ones. By the same token, plan your building so its features will be easy to renovate, build around, or remove in the future. It helps to seek contractors who are already knowledgeable about building green.

If you're redoing your landscape, look for ways to manage water runoff (see page 5).

## Disposal Phase

"Another component, sometimes forgotten about, of any home improvement project is how to dispose of debris, old appliances, and other remnants," says Mark Ray, City recycling

coordinator. "Before starting a project, take the time to know your options for disposal. It will help you avoid potential delays or unexpected expenses."

Hennepin County provides a multitude of disposal options in its "A to Z How To Get Rid of It" guide at [www.hennepinatz.org/azguide/household.html](http://www.hennepinatz.org/azguide/household.html).

Most building materials are **not** accepted at the Hennepin County drop-off sites. Contact your waste hauler regarding disposal of the following items: asphalt shingles, plastic, porcelain or fiberglass bathtubs, ceiling tiles, countertops (stone, concrete, laminate, or wood), vinyl flooring installed after 1986, wood flooring, tile (ceramic, porcelain, or glass), sheetrock and drywall, wood and vinyl siding, toilets, and fiberglass, porcelain, and plastic sinks.

For more information on building green, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/), then click on "Quick Links," scroll down to "Preventing waste and pollution," and click "green building." Another good resource is [www.planetreuse.com](http://www.planetreuse.com).

## Golden Valley Recycling by the Numbers



AROUND **6,930**  
CURBSIDE **RECYCLING**  
CUSTOMERS (Residences)

**RECYCLED**  
**1,964.19 TONS**  
OF MATERIAL IN **2011**  
(that's nearly 4 million lbs),

AND RECYCLED  
**2,361.19 TONS**  
OF MATERIAL IN **2012**  
(that's 4.7 million lbs).



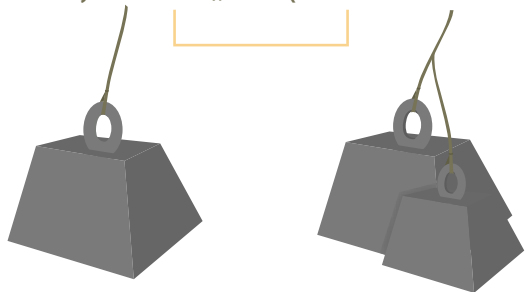
THAT'S AN OVERALL  
**INCREASE OF**  
**397.76 TONS**  
(Which is 795,520 lbs,  
equivalent to 92,502  
gallons of milk),



AN INCREASE OF  
**114.79 lbs**  
PER **CUSTOMER,**  
(Residence)



AND AN INCREASE OF  
**39.1 lbs**  
PER **GOLDEN**  
**VALLEY CITIZEN**  
(based on US Census  
population of 20,371).



The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners



# Landscaping? Think **BLUE**

## Proper Planning Protects Surface Water Quality

Landscaping projects provide a perfect opportunity to improve your property aesthetically as well as environmentally. You can help protect surface water quality by paying attention to two important landscaping issues: choose a design that reduces impervious surfaces and adds natural vegetation, and follow the City Code to prevent erosion and transport of sediment and other pollutants.

### Planning Phase

Consider the following points as you plan your project:


- How does your site drain now, and how will it drain after construction? Will the resulting drainage affect your neighbors' properties?
- Does your site have any steep slopes? Are you close to a wetland, creek, or water body? Do you have a storm drain in your yard, in the street in front of your house, or within 100 feet of your construction project?
- How long will soils be exposed or disturbed (a month, a year, more)?
- During construction, could any exposed soils travel across your property line and into the street, a water body, or a neighbor's property? Could vehicles and equipment travel across your property line and into a neighbor's property, or track dirt and mud into the street?
- Are you adding an impervious surface, like a roof, driveway, or patio?
- How do you plan to stabilize or re-vegetate your site? Could natural or native vegetation, which acts as a buffer for pollutants, fit into the overall look you're going for?
- Have you considered ways to collect and use rainwater or keep it from running off your property (rain gardens, rain barrels, French drains)?

### Permit And Inspection Phase

Any type of project where the ground is disturbed has the potential to cause erosion or drainage problems. In 1999, the City of Golden Valley enacted regulations and procedures to minimize these problems. Now, anyone who wants to grade, fill, excavate, store, or dispose of soil or earth materials or perform any other land-disturbing or land-filling activity must first get a stormwater management permit from the City and submit an application and all required forms and fees to the Public Works Department.

Plan review may take up to 10 days, and if revisions are required, more time may be necessary. Be sure to build this into your project timeline.

Erosion from construction sites is a leading cause of surface water pollution. By monitoring and inspecting projects, the City can help reduce erosion and sediments that enter the storm sewer system. This helps prevent flooding that can damage property and limits the amount of pollutants entering lakes, streams, and ponds in Golden Valley and, ultimately, the Mississippi River.

Questions? Contact Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. Also, the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair (see page 16) offers free seminars on yard care and landscaping. 

## Using Native Plants

One of the best ways to help water quality is to install a rain garden using native plants that are well-suited to the location.

Gardens may be placed in a low area or an area where water tends to run through quickly after a rain or snow melt. A single garden can accommodate about five percent of the drainable area

(eg, a 25-square-foot garden would accommodate 500 square feet of lawn).

Always call GopherOne (651-454-0002) to have utilities marked before you begin such a project.

When the garden area is ready, plant hardy native wildflowers, grasses, and shrubs that can withstand both very wet conditions and intermittent drought-like

conditions. Once established, your rain garden will require little maintenance, and you can sit back and enjoy the wildlife that visits.

Find resources at [www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org), [www.bluethumb.org/raingardens](http://www.bluethumb.org/raingardens), [www.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us), [www.metroblooms.org](http://www.metroblooms.org), and [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/home-yard/yards/native.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/home-yard/yards/native.php). 

# Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities Brochure or at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

## Youth

**Pre-School Playtime** (ages 1–5 w/ adult)—Fri, 10–11:30 am, through March 22, Brookview. \$3/time/child or \$25 for a 10-time punch pass.

**Kids Club** (ages 3–5)—Mon/Wed, Feb 25–April 10, or Tues/Thurs, Feb 19–April 4, 9:30–11 am, Brookview, \$45/Res.

**First Steps in Musicland** (18 months–5 years)—Mon, Feb 18–March 25, 12:45–1:30 pm, Brookview, \$49 Res.

**Little Tigers Self Defense** (ages 3–6)—Tues, Feb 19–March 26, 5:45–6:15 pm, Davis, \$49 Res.

**Indoor Nerf Soccer** (ages 5–7)—Thu, Apr 11–May 16, 7 pm (depending on game schedule), Davis, \$35 Res.

## Adult

**Social and Ballroom Dance**—Sun Feb 24–March 17, 4:30–6 pm, Brookview, \$50 Resident, \$55 Non-Resident.

**Daytime Yoga with Annette**—Tue, Feb 5–March 19, 11 am–noon, Brookview, \$56/Res, \$61/Non-Res.

**Yoga Flow with Laura**—Tue, Feb 19–March 19, 5:30–6:40 pm, Brookview, \$50/Res, \$55/Non-Res.

**For more information or to register**, call 763-512-2345 (Monday–Friday, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, by fax, or online.



PHOTO BY A SYED

## Smart Sledding Means Fun For Everyone

Good old-fashioned sledding remains a great family activity to brighten even the shortest winter days. It also results in more collision injuries than skiing or snowboarding, reports Kids Health. Keep your family safe by being aware of sledding hazards and being prepared before you hit the hills.

Golden Valley has two popular sledding hills, one at Wesley Park and another, slightly advanced hill, at Scheid Park. Nearby Theodore Wirth Park offers more options.

City Recreation Supervisor Brian Erickson recommends sledders go to the parks during skating rink hours. That way, they have access to a warm shelter and bathrooms. Weather permitting, rinks at Wesley and Scheid Parks are open 4–9 pm weekdays, 10 am–9 pm Saturdays, and 1–9 pm Sundays. More information is available at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/parks/skatingrinks/index.php).

Because the sledding hills at Wesley and Scheid are not supervised, Erickson recommends that children be accompanied by an adult. Sledding is a fun pastime, but it can be very hazardous if precautions aren't taken. The Minnesota Safety Council and Safe Kids Worldwide offer the following sledding safety tips for parents and kids:

- Always go down the hill feet forward, and never sled standing up.
- Learn to roll off the sled when you're about to collide with a hard object.
- Use sleds with shock-absorbing seat pads, and avoid sleds with sharp edges.
- Never sled in the dark or near a street, open water, trees, fences, or other hazards.
- Wear a helmet.
- Don't linger at the bottom of the hill once you've stopped.

For more information about safety while sledding and doing other winter activities, go to [www.kidshealth.org](http://www.kidshealth.org), [www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org](http://www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org), [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) and search "sledding."

## Seniors

**Monday Morning Painting**—9–11 am, \$39/residents, \$44/non-residents, for six-punch card.

**Living Wise and Well**—1–2:30 pm, Calvary Co-op. Feb 7: "Everything You-Wanted to Know About Stroke;" March 7: "Memory: Use It or Lose It!"

**Money Matters**—"Veteran's Benefits" Feb 21, 10–11:15 am, Brookview.

**Coffee Talk**—"Rethinking Aging," Feb 27, 9:45–11:15 am, Brookview, \$2 at door. Register by Feb 25 at 763-512-2339.





# Envision Connection Programs Celebrate Golden Valley

When Envision Golden Valley concluded in 2004, citizens who participated in the community visioning process wanted to keep the momentum going. They wanted to see their ideas turned into results and not languish in a report on a shelf.

In response, the City Council created the Envision Connection Project Board of Directors to facilitate and oversee efforts to engage, connect, and improve the community. All of the people, institutions, organizations, and businesses who want to help are known as Bridge Builders, and they provide support

and encouragement for community members to share their ideas and learn how to jump in and make something happen.

Over the years, the two groups have collaborated to establish initiatives that are blossoming today, such as the annual Lilac

## Envision Award

The Connection Project Board of Directors initiated the Envision (VISI) Award in 2009 to recognize citizens who exemplify the Envision qualities and work to bring people together to make the community a better place.

Nominees can be individuals or groups and must either live, work, or play in Golden Valley. Nominations are due by the first of the month in February, May, August, and November for award the following month. Winners will be recognized at City Council meetings and in City publications.

Past VISI award recipients include the Golden Valley Garden Club, Don Anderson, the Kelly Drive Pumpkin Growers Association Founding Members, Marion Helland, the Golden Valley Community Events Fund Founding Members, and Dwight Townes.

Learn more at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/envision/award/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/envision/award/index.php). Nomination forms are available at City Hall, Brookview Community Center, or online.



## Golden Valley Hall of Fame

Bridge Builders developed the Golden Valley Hall of Fame in 2011 as part of Golden Valley's 125th Anniversary celebration. It is intended to honor those who have been affiliated with Golden Valley, made contributions to the community, and become renown. With support from the Connection Project Board of Directors, in January 2013 the City Council made the Hall of Fame recognition an annual City event.

Anyone can make a nomination for the Golden Valley Hall of Fame, but nominees must have lived or worked in Golden Valley at some point. Nominations are due in March (deadline this year is March 22, 2013) for induction in May.

Inductees in 2011 included Philip Brunelle, Don Byerly, Gleason Glover, Robert Provost, and Betty Crocker.

Learn more at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/hall-offame/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/community/hall-offame/index.php). Nomination forms are available at City Hall, Brookview Community Center, or online.

## + CITY HOSTS COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

**Wednesday, March 6**  
**1:30-5:30 pm**  
**City Hall, 7800 Golden Valley Rd**

Join City of Golden Valley employees in giving the gift of life. Make your appointment online at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives) and enter sponsor code 4078. When you arrive, go to the Police Department lobby to check in. Last appointment will be scheduled for 5:30 pm. ~



# ..... Tips for the Remodeler

## .....o Do-It-Yourself A Tough But Rewarding Challenge

The pride of accomplishment can make the challenge of do-it-yourself remodeling worth all the effort. But it can also push homeowners to rush into their projects, and that's a mistake.

Communities have countless homes with rooms like the Operation Rescue Room eyesore highlighted on page 9, examples resulting from the lack of a proper plan, permits, and inspections. Such spaces bring down the value of your house and leave the next owners with an expensive liability, not to mention potential safety liabilities.

For the do-it-yourselfer, it's best to heed the old Boy Scout motto: "Be prepared." Even very small projects benefit from good planning. A good plan will serve as a valuable supporting document and minimize the potential for problems.

"People need to do their homework," says Gary Johnson, Golden Valley building official. "There's a process they need to go through before they can get started on their project. This includes everything from design, to getting permits, to construction. They also need to understand this will all take time."

Golden Valley property inspectors suggest prioritizing what absolutely needs to get done over what you want to get done. In other words, if your roof is sagging, don't spend your money on remodeling the kitchen. The kitchen project may be more fun, but only until it's ruined by a leaky roof.

The first projects to tackle should be any areas of your home in violation of City Code.

Once you prioritize your remodeling projects, the next steps are contacting City Hall and getting a permit.

### **Do Not Skip The Permit**

A permit ensures you do the project correctly and to code. If you don't get a permit, you're not only breaking the law, you're risking the need to tear down the entire project and start from scratch.

Homeowners or their contractors first need to visit the City Planning Department to make sure their planned projects meet the requirements of the City's zoning code. City inspectors will need to review a complete set of construction drawings, then City staff will determine if the project needs additional permits or inspections for water, sewer, grading and erosion control, etc.

The steps for getting a building permit depend on the project. Visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov) and click on the "Your Home and Yard" tab for a list of permits by project and to get other tips. You may also call the City Inspections Department at 763-593-8090.

Make sure these inspections are completed at the correct time. The inspector will sign off on the permit placard when the inspection is approved, Johnson says. And don't forget to get a final inspection when the project has been completed. If you don't get final inspection approval, it could come back to haunt you when you want to sell your house.

Finally, it's important to pick the right materials for your project, Johnson says. Do the research and take your time with all decisions.



"Selection of building materials that require less maintenance long term will minimize the amount of work required later," he says. "A thorough job at the beginning of the project will cut down on problems along the way."

## Wiring, A Tricky Proposition

Circuit installation and wiring requires a particular amount of skill and experience, and certain installations are best left to professionals. But if you would like to do it yourself, here are a few things to keep in mind:

- A City inspection must be done before any wiring is covered, including underground wiring. Once the project is completed, a final inspection is required by the City electrical inspector.
- Most appliances require separate circuits.
- Review state and city code to meet the specific standards.

These tips are not intended to be, nor should be considered, a complete set of requirements. For more information, call the City electrical inspector at 763-390-9255.

## Hiring Contractors

Some projects, such as wiring, may inevitably be out of your skill range, making it time to hire a contractor. Remember, contractors must also follow the permit and inspection requirements. They should have a valid state contractor license, good referrals and a clean record with the State Commerce Department.

Whether you take on a remodeling project yourself or hire a contractor, keep in mind your house is one of the most important investments of your life, so take the time to do it right. ~

# OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM 2012 Winner Transforms "Embarrassing" Bathroom

Roberta Whipple's first reaction to winning the inaugural Operation Rescue Room last year contest was embarrassment. But the embarrassment of winning "worst room in the west metro" soon gave way to the excitement of getting a \$1,000 check and a chance to finally do something about that less-than-stellar downstairs bathroom. Turns out, Whipple says, "the more embarrassing the room was, the better it was for me."

This year's Operation Rescue Room contest will award another \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the 2013 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair (see page 16). Last year, more than 15 homeowners submitted their rooms for the contest. A showcase of pictures and descriptions of why the rooms needed

remodeling was displayed in the Fair's Idea Center, where fairgoers could vote on the room that needed the most work.

"We won by a landslide," Whipple says.

The old basement bathroom (photo at left) in her Minnetonka home was shoddily put together by previous

homeowners, she theorizes, who really didn't know what they were doing. They hand-molded a cement barrier around the shower drain to keep the water from flowing out, and you could see the hand prints in the cement, Whipple recalls.

They lined the walls with a rainbow patchwork of tiles. A pipe jutted up through the shower floor and connected to the toilet. And the plumbing stopped working years ago.

Since she applied her \$1,000 prize to a complete bathroom makeover, the room looks fabulous (photo below right), Whipple says. It's bigger. The tile was replaced with something much more tasteful. There's a new vanity. The plumbing works. And there's even a new wood ceiling.

Whipple recommends entering the contest despite the embarrassment. "It's one of those things where, when the remodeling is over, you're going to say, 'why didn't I do this sooner?'"

Get 2103 contest rules and entry forms at [www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue). Deadline to enter is Feb 17.





# POLICE

# Police Reserves Serve Community

## GVPD Recruiting Citizens For Volunteer Positions

When Andrew Zappa started as a Golden Valley volunteer police reserve officer five years ago, going out on that first shift, a night watch from 7 pm to 3 am, was the greatest feeling in the world, he says.

Now an administrative sergeant for the City's police reserve, Zappa helps recruit new volunteers and hopes to find people with a similar level of excitement toward community service.

Until recently, the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) mostly hired volunteers who wanted a career in law enforcement, but this has changed along with the department's expansion of community outreach.

"The more volunteers we have, the more we're able to do," Zappa says. "We're looking for people who don't necessarily want to be patrol officers, but who just want to do this for the betterment of the community."

With an ever-expanding range of volunteer duties, all backgrounds are welcome, from young adults starting a path in law enforcement to parents with established careers to retired grandparents looking to volunteer in their free time. Anyone over 20 years old with a clean criminal record and at least 10 hours of spare time per month may apply.

Zappa says the department is especially interested in those who have some first-responder training or a CPR license.

Reserve officers are non-licensed, meaning they have no power to arrest anyone and are not authorized to carry firearms. Uniforms and equipment are provided by the GVPD.

## ..... Reserve Officer Requirements .....

To volunteer as a Golden Valley police reserve officer, you must:

- be at least 20 years old and in good physical health
- be a US citizen
- be a high school graduate or equivalent
- have a valid Minnesota driver's license and a good driving record
- complete an oral interview

A reserve officer's main role is to support the day-to-day operations of the GVPD, which includes:

- assisting with routine patrol
- acting as another set of eyes to spot criminal activity and report it to the licensed officers
- performing house and business checks looking for open/unsecured doors
- providing traffic control at accidents or city functions
- providing traffic direction at city events and activities
- assisting the department with community outreach and education
- helping out at community events in neighboring cities
- helping book prisoners
- assisting with department training
- participating in emergency callouts (securing major crime scenes, critical incidents, and disasters)

When they start, officers must complete required training and an evaluation as directed by the department. After that, they may volunteer as much time as they like as long as they can offer at least 10 hours per month.

To apply, call the GVPD at 763-593-8079, or email the reserve coordinator, Sergeant Jeff Johnson, at [jjohnson@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:jjohnson@goldenvalleymn.gov).



*Golden Valley Police Reserve Officer Shawn Rydell supports the GVPD's day-to-day operations.*



# GVFD Seeks Daytime Firefighters

Andy Hutson



Fires don't keep to a schedule. They may spring up at 3 am or over the lunch hour. No matter what part of the day it is, the Golden Valley Fire Department (GVFD) has to be ready.

There's just one problem—on-call firefighters are less available during the day than they are in the evening, explains Golden Valley Firefighter Curtis Smith.

"Recruiting daytime firefighters is a constant challenge," Smith says. The reason for this is simple: Being an on-call firefighter during the day generally conflicts with day-job responsibilities.

To respond to this challenge, in 2002 the GVFD created Corporate Call, a recruitment initiative developed with input from members of the business community and City staff. The goal is to find companies willing to allow one or more of their employees to serve as daytime on-call firefighters.

On-call firefighters show a high level of commitment to the community and, by extension, so do the businesses that support them, says Smith, who directs Corporate Call. Additionally, an on-call firefighter offers on-site skills for the company, including medical and first-aid response, safety knowledge, fire safety programming expertise, and fire suppression abilities.

General Mills employee Andy Hutson joined the GVFD in 2003 as part of the first Corporate Call recruitment class, fulfilling a life-long desire to be a firefighter. He made his decision

after attending a firefighter recruitment presentation at work, and the experience has been as rewarding as he imagined.

"If firefighting is something you're interested in, it's definitely worth pursuing," says Hutson. "For me, it's become a passion."

"Corporate Call gives companies a chance to get more involved in the community and employees a chance to learn lifesaving skills relevant at their day-to-day jobs," says Fire Education Specialist Stephen Baker, "all while solving the Fire Department's challenge of finding daytime firefighters."

If you're interested in being a paid on-call firefighter during the day, or any time, contact Baker at 763-593-3977 or visit [goldenvalleyfire.com](http://goldenvalleyfire.com) to find out more about what the job entails. The next step is to discuss the possibility with your employer. 🏆

## Join Up. Give Back. Stand Out.

First-year firefighters attend two nights of training per week, for 160 hours of training in the first six months. They come away with new or refined skills in search and rescue, emergency medical, hazmat management, auto extrication, critical thinking under pressure, emergency vehicle driving, and of course, firefighting.

If you are at least 18 and live or work within six minutes of a Golden Valley fire station, you could become part of Golden Valley's proud tradition of paid on-call firefighters. For more information, go to [www.goldenvalleyfire.com](http://www.goldenvalleyfire.com).

## STEVE YINGST JOINED THE GOLDEN VALLEY

Fire Department years ago at age 32 and is still there.

"When people join up, they tend to stay on," he says. "It's a great part-time job."

During his years as a firefighter, Yingst has tallied up some lasting memories. "The first time I performed CPR on someone, the time I found a lost child and put her back in her mother's arms—it's all part of my life," he says.

He also found it easier than he imagined juggling firefighting with parenting, his career as a commodity manager, and his landscaping hobby. "You can live a normal life when you're on the Department," he says. "If I had a second chance, I would sign up all over again. I have no regrets."

**Sourcing Manager.  
Father of Three.  
Firefighter.**

**Steve**  
New Recruit, 1992

**[goldenvalleyfire.com](http://goldenvalleyfire.com)**

# Are Bare Streets Feasible In Winter?

## City Explains Winter Maintenance Policy

When the season's first snowstorm dropped 12 inches of the white stuff on Golden Valley Dec 9, 2012, the City's Public Works crews worked methodically for several days to clear local streets and sidewalks according to plan for optimum safety. In the week that followed, a spate of calls from residents indicated that some in the community expect all streets to be cleared to bare pavement after a snowfall.

"The first priority is keeping roads safe for driving, and to some people that means bare pavement," says Bert Tracy, Golden Valley's Public Works maintenance manager. That expectation could be influenced by the maintenance of metro area freeways and county roads.

Freeways carry around 150,000 vehicles a day traveling at 55 miles per hour (mph) or faster. County State Aid highways, such as Winnetka Ave, Douglas Dr, and Medicine Lake Rd, among others, currently carry about 8,000 to 15,000 vehicles per day. The majority of Golden Valley's local streets, with a speed limit of 30 mph, carry less than 1,000 vehicles per day. Therefore, the techniques to manage snow and ice must vary to fit the circumstance.

"Snow removal is all about balancing expectations, reality, economics, and environmental concerns," explains Public Works Director Jeannine Clancy. "Golden Valley does not have a bare pavement policy because traffic volumes and speeds don't warrant it on the local streets we maintain. Furthermore, there is a desire to limit the amount of chemicals placed on local streets because of environmental

impacts to water bodies, including rivers, lakes, and streams. However, other jurisdictions that manage streets with higher volumes and faster speeds need a bare pavement policy to protect the safety of the traveling public."

To keep traffic moving, City crews first plow collector and arterial streets that connect neighborhoods to State and County roads. State and County roads (Hwy 55, Winnetka Ave, etc) are maintained by those organizations, not by the City.

Depending on weather conditions, de-icing crews use a variation of salt/sand-salt mixture on icy areas. Priority areas are treated first, and all other areas are done when time permits. Priority areas include:

- intersections of City streets and County and State roads
- school and pedestrian crossings
- bridge decks
- arterial street stop sign intersections
- street intersections having higher than average traffic volumes, and streets with hills and curves
- all other stop signs and areas deemed hazardous by public works or police staff

For more information about snow removal in Golden Valley, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/streets/maintenance.php) or call Public Works Street Maintenance at 763-593-8081. ❧

## .....➤ Helping With Community Snow Removal

Cooperation from the public greatly helps the snow removal process, says Bert Tracy, Golden Valley's Public Works maintenance manager. Here are a few suggestions:

- Reduce speed and keep a minimum distance of 50 feet from snowplows and sand trucks (frequent backing is necessary, and rear visibility is very limited).
- Never drive into a snow cloud or pass vehicles while they're plowing.
- Stay away from the end of a driveway when a snowplow is approaching.
- Keep sleds and toys away from the street when they're not being used.
- Never build snow forts or snow sculptures in the snow piles on the boulevard.
- Keep garbage cans and recycling carts in the driveway and off roadways and sidewalks if it snows on collection days.
- Listen to weather forecasts so you're not in transit when a storm hits.
- Don't shovel, plow, or blow snow into the street or on to a sidewalk.
- No parking on city streets during a snow emergency.



# Council Approves Franchise Fee

## Additional Revenue Will Fund Infrastructure Improvements

At its Dec 18, 2012 and Jan 2, 2013 meetings, the Golden Valley City Council held public hearings and then approved a franchise fee on CenterPoint Energy to help fund needed infrastructure repairs.

According to Minnesota Statute Sect 216B.36, Cities may impose franchise fees on private utility companies for use of the public right-of-way (ROW). Energy providers pass the fees on to their customers within the city.

With the franchise fee in place, beginning in April 2013, CenterPoint Energy will add flat fees to Golden Valley customers' monthly bills, depending on their usage classification. The monthly fee will be \$2 for residential customers, \$3.50 for small commercial properties, \$22.50 for larger commercial/industrial properties, and \$206 for commercial/industrial properties with dual fuel rates.

The CenterPoint franchise fee is expected to provide approximately \$447,000 in annual revenue. Although this will not be enough to address the City's infrastructure issues, the

funds will be coupled with other fees, grants, assessments, etc, to pay for projects such as reconstruction of Douglas Dr between Hwy 55 and Medicine Lake Rd, Zane Ave between Hwy 55 and Golden Valley Rd, and Lindsay St between Zane Ave and Lilac Dr, among others. All projects will be reviewed annually as part of the City's budget process.

In October 2010, the City of Golden Valley approved an ordinance requiring Xcel Energy to pay an electric franchise fee to raise revenue for the City infrastructure projects, including the Douglas Drive Reconstruction Project scheduled for 2016.

Some other cities that have both gas and electric franchise fees include Brooklyn Center, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, Monticello, New Hope, Robbinsdale, and St Louis Park.

For more information about the CenterPoint franchise fee, call Golden Valley Public Works at 763-593-8030. 

## Bottineau Light Rail Transitway Moves Forward

### City Council Approves Route Through Golden Valley



A light rail transit (LRT) route through Golden Valley got the green light Dec 18, 2012, when the City Council voted in favor of endorsing the Bottineau Transitway, which will run from downtown Minneapolis to the northwest suburbs.


Hennepin County spent the past several years studying the feasibility of the Bottineau LRT corridor with two routes under consideration—one through north Minneapolis and one through eastern Golden Valley. The Golden Valley route would run along the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad corridor, which is partially adjacent to the Mary Hills Nature Area and Theodore Wirth Park. The route would then leave the railroad corridor to connect with Hwy 55 and head for downtown Minneapolis.

After examining the possibilities, officials from Hennepin County voted in December to endorse the Golden Valley route. Minneapolis, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and Brooklyn

Park have also voted in support. If approved by the Metropolitan Council this spring, the Bottineau Transitway will become eligible for further study and preliminary engineering. This would include completion of an environmental impact study and approval of a project layout design, a process that could take several years. While Hennepin County has funded the study to this point, the design process will be funded primarily with federal dollars.

"Every part in this takes time," says City Planner Joe Hogeboom. "Even if everything is approved, construction wouldn't start for at least three years."

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board has invited officials from affected agencies, such as the City of Golden Valley, to a series of workshops in February focusing on the design and location of potential Theodore Wirth Park transit stations.

For more information about the Bottineau LRT project, go to [www.bottineautransitway.org](http://www.bottineautransitway.org). To comment, contact the City at 763-593-8099, or email the County at [bottineau@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:bottineau@co.hennepin.mn.us). 

# Winter Driving Requires Vigilance

While it's obvious that driving during a snowstorm requires our full attention, there is a risk of being too complacent when conditions are generally less treacherous.

It's surprising how quickly we can forget the basics of safe winter driving after just a few days of dry roads, taking a corner too fast or sliding through a stop sign on an unexpected slippery spot. Therefore, it should also be obvious that **all** winter driving requires our full attention.

## Drive Like You've Done This Before

Whether you're a seasoned driver or a rookie, preparation and planning are the keys to safe winter driving.

- Plan your trip to allow for extra time due to weather delays and slower speeds.
- Wear your seat belt! It's the law in all seasons.
- Be patient and drive slowly.
- Keep extra distance between you and the car in front of you to allow enough room to stop.
- Know your vehicle—front wheel drive, anti-lock brakes, stability control, etc—and how it handles in poor driving conditions.
- Do not use cruise control when the road may be slippery.
- Accelerate and decelerate gradually.
- Watch for ice on bridges, shaded areas, and low points.
- Use signals and brake lights more deliberately to communicate your intentions to other drivers.
- Monitor weather reports and identify alternate routes.

- Do not travel alone when possible, and let someone know your route and arrival time.
- If you become snow-bound, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to locate you. Don't try to walk in a severe storm. It's easy to lose sight of your vehicle in blowing snow and become lost.
- Stay home if road conditions are poor. Even if you can drive well in the snow, not everyone else can. Don't tempt fate: If you don't have to be somewhere, watch the snow from indoors.



## Keep Your Car Stocked For Emergencies

Items not to get caught without during the winter driving season include:

- ice scraper and snow brush
- jumper cables
- bag of sand and a shovel
- warm boots/shoes, hat, mittens, and a blanket
- windshield washer fluid
- charged cell phone
- water, food, and medications for longer trips

Resources: AAA and [CarTalk.com](http://CarTalk.com). 

## TAKE CARE OF YOUR VEHICLE

Winter tests our vehicles, and extreme cold can expose any weaknesses in a vehicle's operating systems.

Here's how to stay ahead of the curve.

- **Service your car.** Proper maintenance will help ensure your vehicle operates safely and efficiently.
- Properly inflate your **tires** and check the tread to be sure you have enough traction for winter driving.
- Make sure the **windshield wipers** are in good shape to clear snow, ice, and roadway spray from your windshield.
- Keep the **windshield washer fluid** reservoir full, and keep an extra bottle in your trunk and in your garage.
- Make sure the **rear defroster** is working properly.
- **Clear snow** off your car completely so excess snow won't slide off the roof onto your windshield or fly onto someone else's windshield.
- **Wipe off headlights and tail lights**, even if you think they don't need it. With the additional salt, sand, snow, and spray on the road, they may be dirtier than you think.
- **Warm-up the car** just long enough to take the chill off. Never warm-up a vehicle in an enclosed space and never leave a running vehicle unattended.





# UPCOMING (free) events

PHOTO BY JANICE LAULAINEN, VIEWS OF THE VALLEY 1996

## Operation Rescue Room Deadline

Sun, Feb 17 | 4:30 pm (see page 16)

## FAMILY & FRIENDS CPR CLASS

Thur, Feb 21 | 5:30–7:30 pm

Brookview Community Center

Hands-on course covers adult, child, and infant CPR, AED (automated external defibrillator) awareness, and rescue techniques for choking in an adult, child, or infant. Does not provide CPR certification but teaches life-saving skills. \$10. Sign up with Park and Recreation at 763-512-2345.

## West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

Sun, Feb 24 | 10:30 am–3:30 pm (see page 16)

## GV FAMILY NIGHT WITH THE TIMBERWOLVES AT TARGET CENTER

Sun, Feb 24 | 2:30 pm

Target Center

Join your neighbors in upper level sideline seats to watch the Wolves take on the Golden State Warriors. Discounted tickets are \$17/resident, \$22/non-resident. Register by Feb 14.

## Community Blood Drive

Wed, March 6 | 1:30–5:30 pm (see page 7)

## CARING YOUTH RECOGNITION

Thur, March 21 | 7 pm

Minnetonka Community Center

Sponsored by the cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, and Minnetonka, and the Hopkins and Minnetonka School Districts, this annual event celebrates the contributions of young people who positively affect our communities and who have given outstanding service.

## ALOHA SPRING DANCE

Fri, March 22 | 7–9:30 pm

Crystal Community Center

\$5 by March 21, \$8 at the door

Help welcome spring with dancing, contests, and more! Wear a Hawaiian print shirt and be eligible for a special drawing for a gift card. DJ music provided by Total Entertainment. Co-sponsored with Crystal, New Hope, and Robbinsdale. Snacks and beverages available for purchase.

## Run The Valley

Sat, April 13 | 8 am (see page 3)

More event information at: [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar)

## GVPD UNIVERSITY SAFETY EDUCATION

The Golden Valley Police Department offers an ongoing safety education series for citizens called GVPD University (GVPDU). For more information, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/police/gvpdu/index.php) or call 763-593-8079.

### Tech Savvy Series

Tues, May 7–21 | 6–9 pm

Learn how to maneuver safely in today's tech-focused world.

- May 7: Keeping Your Home Network/Personal Technology Safe
- May 14: Be Social Media Savvy
- May 21: Keep Your Kids Safe Online

### Senior Safety Series

Tues, Sept 3–17 | 6–9 pm

Learn about safety issues that most often affect adults and elders.

- Sept 3: Financial Exploitation of Seniors
- Sept 10: Internet Safety for Seniors
- Sept 17: Driving Safety for Seniors



7800 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55427

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[www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov)

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## Home Remodeling Fair Seminars (free)

- Plan Your Project Online
- Installing Laminate Flooring
- Bath Remodeling 2013: Small Innovations to Total Renovations
- Rain Gardens and Barrels
- Get Tough with Common Yard and Garden Problems
- Kitchen Remodeling 2013: Small Innovations to Total Renovations
- Ceramic Tiling Demonstration
- Calm Your Chaos: Develop a Home Maintenance Plan
- Financing and Planning a Major Home Remodeling Project
- Kitchen Design Workshop
- Maximizing Your Backyard's Potential
- Ask the Pro – Plumbing Questions?
- New Trends in Interior Design
- Tips to Successful Bathroom Remodeling
- Organic Lawn Care
- Tips to Successful Kitchen Remodeling

## Free Home Remodeling Fair Returns Feb 24



Whether you're a first-time do-it-yourselfer or are looking to hire an expert, the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair has something for everyone. It's set for Feb 24, 10:30 am–3:30 at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins.

The Fair, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions in the western suburbs, will feature seminars and demonstrations (see sidebar) and more than 100 exhibitors, including architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. The Idea Center features Operation Rescue Room (see below) and "Ask the Pro," a chance at no-obligation advice from architects and interior designers (bring your photos, sketches, and questions). Food concessions and children's activities will be available in the cafeteria.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, and Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park Community Education. Co-sponsors are Building Arts Sustainable Architecture & Construction LLC; DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen; Fair & Square Remodeling; Greenery Schack Landscaping; Great Lakes Windows & Siding/Owens Corning Basement; Home Depot; J.W. Williams Construction, Inc; Neighborhood Building & Remodeling; Otogawa-Anschel Design Build; Pappas Design; SicoraDesign/Build; and Western Construction, Inc.

For more information, go to [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com) or contact the City of Golden Valley at 763-593-8099.

### OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

*Do you have the baddest bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county?*

**The 2013 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.**

The second annual Operation Rescue Room contest will give \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the Home Remodeling Fair on Feb 24, 2013. Last year, Roberta Whipple of Minnetonka won the contest and used the money to fix up her bathroom (see photos at right, complete story on page 9).

Get rules and entry forms at [www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue). Deadline to enter is Feb 17, 2013.

[www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue)



From this...



to this...



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